

USS PROCYON (AF-61)
HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT
1969

PROCYON began the year 1969 busily engaged in providing underway replenishment services to units of the U. S. Seventh Fleet in the Gulf of Tonkin. The stroke of midnight of the new year found the PROCYON with the USS TAYLOR (DD-468) alongside to starboard. After brief stops in Kao-I'siung and Subic in early January, PROCYON conducted a mammoth underway replenishment of 320 tons of provisions to 17 customers during a 42 hour period on January 17-18.

Singapore served as a replacement for Hong Kong as R & R port on this cruise. PROCYON spent three days in the tropical city-state from 24-27 February. Operational commitments cancelled PROCYON's long-awaited equatorial crossing into the sea of full-fledged shellbacks.

After completing her last line swing, PROCYON made a brief stop in Subic Bay before heading for Sasebo, Japan to load fleet freight. PROCYON was in Sasebo on March 24-25.

Heading home, the ship made a one day stop in Pearl Harbor on 8 April to tip her hat to COMSERVPAC, and then changed her way home, arriving at NSC, Oakland on 16 April.

PROCYON was luckily chosen to be the SERVROM SEVEN representative to the Portland Rose Festival. With CAPT J. S. OLLER, Jr, COMSERVROM SEVEN embarked, PROCYON got underway for Portland on 9 June. After sighting the North Head Light at 0200 on 11 June, the Special Sea and Anchor Detail was stationed for the trip up the Columbia River. Eighty winding miles later, PROCYON moored at the quaywall Portland, Oregon and secured the Special Sea and Anchor Detail at 1634. The City of Portland was an excellent host, and provided the officers and men with many diverse activities and entertainments. PROCYON arrived home in Alameda on 18 June, after five fun-filled days in Portland.

On 15 July, PROCYON went into drydock at the Willamette Iron and Steel Works, Richmond in the first phase of a regularly scheduled overhaul. Shifting to the Triple "A" Machine Shop, San Francisco on 25 July, PROCYON continued her overhaul until mid October.

CAPT J. B. ALLRED relieved CAPT R. E. WILSON as Commanding Officer on 15 October, and got the ship underway for post-yard trials operations from 20 to 24 October.

PROCYON departed for Refresher Training in San Diego on 27 October. This training period proved to be the finest in PROCYON's history and one of the best for any ship of any type. PROCYON's grades of 100 in Navigation and 97 in Engineering on the Final Battle Problem were the highest received by any ship going through REFTRA in the past two years. For its efforts, PROCYON received a personal note of congratulations from Rear Admiral COMBRS, COMSERVPAC.

PROCYON arrived at Alameda on 23 November. On 12 December she shifted to NSC, Oakland to begin loading out for her next deployment. PROCYON shifted to the Army Reefer Docks to begin receiving chilled and frozen provisions on 22 December, and shifted back to NSC Oakland on 31 December.